Foodgrains exports

169. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains exports may decline below ten lakh tonnes this fiscal years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no new contracts are being signed as Government have not declared an export policy; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to accelerate formulation of the export policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) It is not possible to estimate the extent of foodgrains exports during 2004-05, as exports depend upon various factors such as international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

(b) and (c) Data on export contracts is not maintained. A new export policy for foodgrains is at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government.

Export of Steel

†170. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel is being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the countries to whom steel has been exported during the last three years alongwith the quantum thereof, country-wise; and

(c) the details of the foreign exchange earned, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The export figures of the primary and semi-finished iron and steel, and iron and steel bar/rod etc. during the period 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April to November, 2003) are as follows:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.